

This year's theme, "Leadership to Meet the Challenge of a Changing World," is especially fitting given the many challenges we face today. The leadership of many Asian Pacific Americans who have dedicated their lives to public service is especially notable. These trailblazers have been a strong voice for the community and have empowered Asian Pacific Americans to break barriers and pursue the American dream.

Among these respected Americans are my esteemed colleagues in Congress, Senators DANIEL INOUE and DANIEL AKAKA, and nine Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including California Representatives JUDY CHU, DORIS MATSUI, and MIKE HONDA. In the executive branch, we are lucky to have the services of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

In particular, I would like to recognize Representative CHU on her new position as chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. I would also like to congratulate Secretary Locke on his recent nomination by President Obama to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. These individuals are all leaders in the Asian Pacific American community, and their service inspires future generations to follow in their footsteps.

In addition to their cultures, entrepreneurial skills and dedication to public service, Asian Pacific Americans have also made great sacrifices to ensure our nation remains strong and secure. There are thousands of Asian Pacific Americans serving overseas in our Armed Forces and here at home in our law enforcement agencies. These admirable citizens risk their lives every day to protect their communities. They deserve our thanks.

I also want to praise the leadership and hard work of the Asian Pacific American legal community. Since the beginning of 2009, we have made significant progress in our work to diversify Federal courts. Six new Asian Pacific American judges have been confirmed to the Federal bench. These include U.S. District Judges Jacqueline Nguyen and Dolly Gee in Los Angeles and U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose. Two highly qualified nominees still await votes—Professor Goodwin Liu, nominated for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Edward Chen, nominated for the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. I will continue to do what I can to further diversify the judiciary and ensure that qualified Asian Pacific American judges are nominated and confirmed to the Federal bench.

Unfortunately, this month also brings with it the reminder that my good friend and political strategist Mr. Kam Kuwata is no longer with us. Kam was well known and well respected by those in California politics and journalism. He tirelessly pursued civil

rights and achieved remarkable success in campaigns and State initiatives. He carried with him many of the difficulties Asian Pacific Americans have faced, as his mother's family was interned during World War II. But he also embodied the many accomplishments that Asian Pacific Americans have achieved. Kam was truly one of the most intelligent and sharp people I have ever met. I would like to extend my heartfelt and deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be dearly missed by all of us whose lives he touched.

Today, it is my honor to acknowledge the remarkable strength, character, and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL ROAD

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the importance of investment in our national infrastructure on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of the National Road.

On May 7, 2011, Americans will gather in Cumberland, MD, to celebrate the bicentennial of the groundbreaking for the construction of this first federally financed road. Congress approved The National Road in 1806 and construction was completed in 1818, connecting Cumberland, MD, with Wheeling, WV, located on the Ohio River. This road would connect East to West, allowing for economic growth and opportunity as a young nation sought to unite a diverse country and facilitate the flow of people, goods, services, information, and Federal authority in new territory.

The National Road's completion created a flow of goods and people to and from the Port of Baltimore, along privately developed turnpikes to Cumberland, and across the mountains to the Ohio River Valley. The road was extended to Vandalia, IL, in the early 1840s. For more than a century, The National Road was this Nation's only federally funded interstate highway, making its importance to commercial and political enterprise unparalleled.

By the 1850s, the lure of trade and migration to the West led to the development of the "horseless carriage," running parallel to the road, connecting the Port of Baltimore to the West right through Cumberland, MD, over the mountains and westward. While The National Road remained important, trains began to transport the bulk of goods and people travelling West. In the 1900s, it was the invention of the automobile that brought The National Road back to popularity as travelers and tourists explored America and the natural beauty of western Maryland and truckers transported goods along with the trains.

I would encourage my colleagues and their constituents to take a journey on The National Road. The National Road has been designated a Maryland Scenic Byway and is marked by signs and his-

torical markers, connecting heritage areas, arts and entertainment districts, and historic landscapes and structures. A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary can be found at www.crnp.gov/nr.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this national achievement, which reminds us of the importance of supporting infrastructure investments that promote trade and commerce, and in thanking the people of Cumberland, MD, for celebrating this national achievement.

TRIBUTE TO PETER FISCHER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Peter Fischer, who is retiring from Senate service. Peter has been an essential member of my staff for more than a decade, and he currently serves as chief of staff for my Washington, DC, office. I cannot thank him enough for his dedicated counsel and friendship. Time and time again, he has provided helpful insight and contagious optimism that have been instrumental in overcoming even the most difficult challenges.

I have been extremely blessed to have Peter as part of my team through multiple, valuable roles. He joined my 1998 Senate campaign as campaign finance director following his service as an economic development specialist with Idaho's department of commerce and industry. Then, in January of 1999, I was fortunate to have Peter join my congressional staff as State director for economic development. He utilized his economic development experience and profound understanding of the needs of Idaho communities to help communities navigate the Federal bureaucracy and identify partnership opportunities. He continued this outstanding advocacy after he moved to Washington, DC, nearly 2 years later, to become legislative director prior to becoming my Washington, DC, chief of staff.

Peter has a remarkable "can-do" spirit and resourcefulness, and he has contributed greatly to advancing countless legislative and policy priorities for Idaho. For example, his commitment to the Owyhee Initiative played a major role in the successful passage of the authorizing legislation and continued implementation efforts. As a hunter, fisher and sportsman, Peter also provided valuable perspective in enactment of electronic duck stamp legislation. He has also been very active in representing me in countless ways on Capitol Hill. For example, he is a senior Stennis fellow, serves on the Steering Committee for the Bipartisan Chiefs of Staff organization, is the Republican chair of the bipartisan Foreign Policy Study Group, has attended numerous chiefs of staff retreats and manages my Washington campaign activities during his free time.

A 1971 graduate of the University of California—Santa Barbara with a degree in history, Peter has a fascinating